The salient observations made by the participating countries in the field of education, *inter-alia*, included:

(i) All participating countries agreed that there was a need to set up efforts for girls' education to achieve the gender equality at primary stage by 2005 and the gender parity goal by 2015;

(ii) Many of the participating countries agreed that the projections made and inferences drawn in the Global Monitoring Report on Education For All-2003 were based on old data. There was call for the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) to fine tune their estimation methods to include updated survey data and not wait for disaggregated census data. It was felt that UIS also needs to enhance its capacity for analysis and forecasting so that the conclusions drawn by it can be more realistic.

(iii) Donor countries and international agencies should fulfil their commitments made at Dakar and Monterrey. This referred to the need to substantially step up their Official Development Assistance (to reach 0.7% of their GNP) and increase the allocation therefrom to Elementary Education.

Changes in curricula and course contents of IIM

1941. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to carry out sweeping changes in the curricula and course contents of the Indian Institute of Management, throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) whether the resources crunch are one of the major reasons for the change; and

(d) whether Government are aware that the revision of the course contents etc. might adversely affect the quality of management education and if so, preventive steps proposed to be taken to arrest the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in Karnataka

1942. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is being implemented in Karnataka;

(b) if so, how many residential schools for girls have been set up in Karnataka under Kasturba Gandhi Swatantra Vidyalaya, a special scheme; and

(c) how many educationally backward blocks having low female literacy and predominant SC/ST population have been covered under the National Programme for Education of Girls at elementary level in Karnataka under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scheme of Kasturba Gandhi Swatantra Vidyalaya is yet to be approved by the Central Government.

(c) Proposals for Central assistance under the Programme are yet to be received from Government of Karnataka.

Educationally backward districts

†1943. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified educationally backward districts especially in SC/ST dominated areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by Government for the development of educationally backward districts during current Five Year Plan; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.